Pilot Project for Preventing soil Subsidence

2387. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI:

SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the experimental pilot project for studying effects of the indigenous methods for preventing soil subsidence has not been given enough importance; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A pilot project was sanctioned in July 1985 with a cost of Rs. 44.84 lakhs to be carried out at Ramjibanpur (Eastern Coalfields Ltd.) is under implementation for stabilisation of water filled voids. The project involves application of innovative methods like stowing of sand and water slurry through boreholes and testing the efficacy of these measures by geo-physical methods. A separate project officer has been posted to oversee the implementation of the project since its inception. The progress of the project is being regularly monitored by Eastern Coalfields Ltd., Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Ltd., Asansol-Durgapur Development Authority, Central Mining Research Station and Department of Coal. Against 24,000 cubic metres of sand stowing, 18,000 cubic metres has already been achieved. The project is likely to be completed by March, 1988.

Price of News Print

2388. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of news print in India is the highest in the world;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the duty on spare parts of the news print machinery is 300 per cent;

(c) whether due to the steep escalation in the price of news print and the high duty imposed on spare parts of the machinery the sale prices of news papers have reached the saturation point; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to ease the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Information with regard to the prevailing price of newsprint in the various countries of the world is not being maintained. Hence, no comparison of the price of newsprint in the country with that of other countries of world is possible.

(b) General Machinery parts which formally fall under Customs Tariff Heading 98.06, attract total customs duty of 90 per cent *ad valorem*.

(c) Although the price of imported newsprint supplied through the State Trading Corporation of India has gone up in recent months, the prices of indigenous newsprint have remained unchanged since Jan., 1986. The recent increase in the price of some of the newspapers cannot be attributed only to the price of news print or the duty imposed on spare parts of the machinery. It will also be difficult to say that the prices of newspapers have reached a saturation point. If the demand for newsprint is taken as an indicator, the circulation of newspapers has increased.

(d) Does not arise.

Tieup for Gas Turbine Projects

2389. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has asked 3 foreign parities for ite-up for the Gas Turbine Project;